

# Cheerful Hearts & Generous Living

Part #1

Matthew 6:21 NASB

*“for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

2 Corinthians 9:13 NASB

*Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all*

2 Corinthians 9:1-3 NIV

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints. 2 For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. 3 But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.

## Principles for Cheerful Hearts & Generous Living

### **#1. God is My Source & Everything I have Belongs to Him!**

2 Corinthians 8:1 NIV

*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.*

1 Corinthians 4:7 NIV

*What do you have that you did not receive?*

### **#2. Generosity Has Nothing To Do With My Circumstances.**

2 Corinthians 8:2-4 NIV

*Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 NASB

*Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

### **#3. Let Christ's Example Be My Inspiration.**

2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

#### **#4. I Will Reap What I Sow!**

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 NIV

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:*

*"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."*

#### **#5. Let My Aspiration Be To Excel in Generosity!**

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV

*But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

#### **Paul's Prayer of Blessing over Me.**

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV

*10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*